

Message Text

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43

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 NEA-09 ISO-00 INR-07 DODE-00 PA-01

PRS-01 USIA-06 CIAE-00 /046 W
----- 023249

R 241444Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8325

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 0381

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SPON, VS, FI

SUBJECT: VISIT BY FINNISH NEWS REPRESENTATIVE JARVENTAUS

REF: (A) R 040245Z FEB . 75 (B) R 280859Z JAN 75;

(C) R 170827Z, JAN 75.

1. EMBASSY HELSINKI JOINS DAO IN APPRECIATION OF
OUTSTANDING DAO/USIS SUPPORT FOR VISIT OF GENERAL
JARVENTAUS IN DELHI AND BANGKOK AND FOR FINE PROGRAM
PREPARED BY DAO SAIGON. JARVENTAUS COMMENTED TO
AARMA ON DELHI AND BANGKOK BRIEFINGS (DAO MESSAGE
R240815Z FEB 75).

2. GIVEN THE FACT THAT GENERAL JARVENTAUS REPRE-
SENTS THE LARGEST NEWSPAPER IN FINLAND, INDEPENDENT
HELSINGIN SANOMAT, AND CONSIDERING HIS STATURE AS A
KNOWLEDGEABLE AND OBJECTIVE EXPERT ON MILITARY
AFFAIRS, WE FEEL IT IS MOST UNFORTUNATE THAT
HIS PLANNED VISIT TO RVN DID NOT WORK OUT.

3. FROM DISCUSSION WITH JARVENTAUS AND DAO CABLES,
WE GATHER HE AND DAO BANGKOK HAD BEEN TOLD BY GVN
EMBASSY BANGKOK THAT NO VISA WAS NEEDED. HOWEVER,
HE WAS PREVENTED FROM BOARDING THE AIRPLANE TO SAIGON FROM
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BANGKOK ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2 BECAUSE OF LACK OF VISA.

REFUSAL REPORTEDLY BASED ON FINLAND BEING "ON LIST OF SOCIALIST COUNTRIES" CITIZENS OF WHICH REQUIRE 15 DAYS FOR APPROVAL OF VISAS.

4. WE DO NOT KNOW IF DENIAL JARVENTAUS TRIP TO RVN DUE ONLY TO BUREAUCRATIC MIXUP OR SOMETHING ELSE. WE CAN WELL UNDERSTAND IT IF GVN IS NOT HAPPY THAT FINLAND RECOGNIZES HANOI BUT NOT SAIGON, AND MOST RECENTLY SUPPORTED PRG ATTENDANCE AT LOW CONFERENCE ALONG WITH RVN. WE ARE NOT HAPPY WITH THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS AND ARE DOING OUR BEST TO URGE ON GOF A MORE BALANCED VIETNAM POLICY. SINCE JARVENTAUS PERSONALLY AND HIS PAPER EDITORIALY KNOWN FOR OPEN-MINDEDNESS, WE BELIEVE A GOOD CHANCE FOR SOME REDRESS OF GENERAL PRO-HANOI, PRO-PRG TILT IN FINNISH MEDIA WAS MISSED WHEN JARVENTAUS WAS UNABLE VISIT RVN.

5. IN ORDER TO DISPEL ANY IMPRESSION THAT RVN PERHAPS TRYING HIDE TRUE STATE OF AFFAIRS AND FOR THE SAKE OF TRYING TO MINIMIZE DAMAGE, WE SUGGEST FOR EMBASSY SAIGON'S CONSIDERATION THAT GVN AUTHORITIES BE REQUESTED INFORM JARVENTAUS THAT DENIAL OF HIS TRIP IS REGRETTED, WAS DUE TO ADMINISTRATIVE MIXUP AND THAT HE IS WELCOME TO VISIT RVN AT ANY TIME. WE BELIEVE OBJECTIVE COMMENT SUCH AS JARVENTAUS MIGHT MAKE NEEDED HERE TO COUNTER PRESSURES FOR UPGRADING PRG INFORMATION OFFICE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISA REGULATIONS, JOURNALISTS, VISITS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellEO
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975HELSIN00381
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750064-1057
From: HELSINKI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750219/aaaaarcb.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 R 040245Z, 75 FEB75, 75 R 280859Z, 75 JAN 75
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellEO
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <29 SEP 2003 by RowellEO>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT BY FINNISH NEWS REPRESENTATIVE JARVENTAUS
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, VS, FI
To: SAIGON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006